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1979

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Anglesey Stakes
Moyglare Stud Stakes

SEPTEMBER 1: SATURDAY
National Stakes
Brownstown Stakes
Philips Electrical Stakes

SEPTEMBER 15: SATURDAY
Irish Cambridgeshire
Ashford Castle Stayers Stakes
Unidare Apprentice Nursery Handicap

SEPTEMBER 18: TUESDAY
Goffs Sales Week Meeting

SEPTEMBER 29: SATURDAY
Desmond Stakes
Railway Stakes

OCTOBER 13: SATURDAY
**IRISH ST. LEGER*
Irish Cesarewitch
Beresford Stakes
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J. T. Rogers Memorial Stakes

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WAR AND PEACE IN THE SINAI

—Lt. Col. E. D. DOYLE

FEW newspapers have published the full text of the new Egyptian — Israeli Peace Treaty (full title "Treaty of Peace between the Republic of Egypt and the State of Israel"). Public interest in the details is limited; the high-lights are enough for most people. High-lights or full text — the agreement has been received with varying emotions and reactions. Those who have served in UN operations concerned with the supervision of previous agreements in the Sinai and the Golan will read the full text with special care, and with questions in mind. Will the provisions of this treaty be more difficult or less difficult to supervise? How have the loopholes which became apparent in earlier agreements been dealt with? For those who came to know the Sinai and felt the glamour of history behind the harsh and challenging present, there is more. What of the future? Will the ancient silence return to this clean and sun-tortured landscape? Over and above these specific points, however, there are more general and long-term questions. Are there new peace-keeping techniques involved? Is peace-keeping advanced in the process? How is the overall progress of peace-making and peace-building affected? These questions are important because they arise from the iron necessities of our times. The serious attempt to solve human conflicts without violence is new, dating from the formation of the UN in 1945. Mankind has been making war for thousands of years. We have got very good at it — too good, indeed, for our own future and that of our children. War has become a science, albeit an inexact one, since its first crude beginnings with clubs and stones. It has a vast literature, produced by able men, some splendid poetry, much stirring music and pageantry. There is a set of "Principles" drawn from the study of thousands of years of victory and defeat, an international education system and a wide range of continuously up-dated techniques. Peace-keeping has yet to find its Clausewicz. There is little history or experience from which principles may be drawn. War, even guerilla war, has all the good tunes and the emotional appeal. As professional soldiers we know the satisfaction of training, of turning raw young men into disciplined troops and welding them into good units. We work within a system, whose basic premises are as old as human nature. Peace-keeping has to be picked up on an ad hoc basis.

Peace Keeping

"Because of the obvious devastating consequences of the resort to armed force especially its large scale use, namely war, early attempts were made to limit it.

(a) By restricting the right to resort to war, i.e. the doctrine of "just war";
(b) By regulating the conduct of warfare, notably by outlawing certain particularly vicious practices and weapons, i.e. by formulating the laws of war.

Since the international society of sovereign States lost a central authority to decide whose cause was just and assure its victory, the medieval doctrine of "just war" had to be abandoned as early as the 16th century. The unlimited right of States to go to war at will was henceforth regarded as an element of their sovereignty. The Covenant of the League of Nations merely provided for procedural limitations of this right". (Dr. Hanspeter Neuhold "Peace-keeping within the UN System".) The authors of the UN Charter tried to do better. The Peace-keeping operations that have resulted since 1945 were not at all what they envisaged — the word "Peace-keeping" is mentioned nowhere in the Charter. The International Peace Academy has produced the following definition of "UN sanctioned international peace-keeping" or (as it is sometimes called) "international control of violence": "The prevention, containment, moderation and termination of hostilities between or within states through the medium of third party intervention organized and directed internationally, using multinational military, police and civilian personnel to restore and maintain peace". (Footnote: "The Peacekeepers' Handbook" published by the International Peace Academy, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York.) This definition gives a ready check on other so-called "peace-keeping" forces. Are they genuinely "third party" forces? Are they considered so by the parties to the conflict? Is the force a multi-national one? Above all, is it "organized and directed internationally" or by one deeply interested power?

"History shows how inconclusive have been the majority of enforcement actions . . . even where the weight of the military machine has crushed the militant opposition it has not succeeded in achieving a solution to the problem that created the conflict in the first place." (Ibid.)

To "make a desert and call it peace" has been the more usual practice. Impartial peacekeepers have been few. Third party intervention, in the true sense, has been almost entirely absent. There has, of course, been no lack of fine words and fine sentiments to conceal the traditional motivations of greed and national interest.

Comparisons

This article will be confined to a comparative examination of the content of the new Treaty. It is necessary to point out that we are not comparing like with like. The previous Golan and Sinai Agreements were interim affairs. The United Nations took an active part in the negotiations preceding them. The wordings specifically said that these pacts were "not peace agreements" but "steps towards a just and durable peace". The Golan Agreement was guaranteed by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The three Sinai Agreements came largely from American initiatives — particularly in 1974 when Mr. Kissinger persisted after formal negotiations broke down. The new Agreement is intended to terminate a State of War and achieve a final evacuation of occupied territory. The United Nations was not represented at the discussions this time — but is expected to assist in implementing their results. The Soviet Union was not involved, and remains outside the framework.

Mandate Durations

The text begins in the usual jargon of diplomacy, "CONVINCED of the urgent necessity . . . ", "REAFFIRMING their adherence . . ." etc., — as unreal to military readers as, one supposes, the format of our five paragraph order must be to the civilians. Further down we come to the statement that the parties "recognise and will respect each other's right to live in peace within their secure and recognised boundaries" — an emotive phrase in the past 30 years. Article IV marks a new departure:

"The parties agree not to request withdrawal of the United Nations personnel and that these personnel will not be removed unless such removal is approved by the Security Council of the United Nations, with the affirmative vote of the five permanent members, unless the parties otherwise agree".

The past throws its shadows here. President Nasser called for, and got, the withdrawal of UNEF I without notice in 1967. Few will now disagree that the results were disastrous for him. The Sinai Disengagement Agreement of January 1974 was renewable every 6 months, as was the Israeli-Syrian one of May 1974. This led to some "cliff-hangers" — last-minute renewals for UNDOF in the Golan and a renewal for only three months for UNEF II in the Sinai in April 1975. Article V of the September 1975 Agreement stated:

"The United Nations Emergency Force is essential and shall continue its functions and its mandate shall be extended annually".

Nevertheless the most recent mandate of UNEF II was extended for nine months only. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been renewed for varying periods so far. In one of the most perceptive surveys this writer has seen (published in the diplomatic magazine **"Orbis"**, spring 1975) N. A. Pelcovits of the Johns Hopkins University said (appropos of the 1974 Agreement) " . . . the provision for a veto-proof term (six months) which was intended to quiet concern about premature withdrawal, has become a source of instability. A six-month mandate is probably the limit of what is politically acceptable to the Arab states and to key powers in the Security Council, notably the USSR and France . . . a short fixed term contains the seeds of contention as the end of the period nears and parties jockey for renewal or change in the mandate . . . even an open-ended mandate, however, would not ensure durability. As happened in May 1967, if the underlying political consensus unravels so will the peacekeeping operation, no matter what the Security Council resolution provides . . . making sure the force stays is likely to depend more on progress in negotiating a settlement and on sustaining confidence-building measures on the ground than on firmer provisions in the mandate" . . . This was written about January 1975. (It was reprinted in **"The Military Review"** for December 1975.) It is permissible to suggest that the fact that the UN did sustain "confidence-building" measures in the Sinai has led to the new position that "the parties agree not to request withdrawal of the United Nations personnel", . . . etc. The new wording should help to take peace-keeping out of a hand-to-mouth existence. It is significant that Gen. Herzog, the former Israeli Intelligence Chief, said on TV recently that "UNEF was well run and well commanded". Israel is normally grudging in giving credit to UN forces.

The Veto

The phrase "affirmative vote of the five permanent members" rings a bell. Article 27 of the UN Charter, the "veto article" says that "decisions of the Security Council shall be made by an **affirmative vote** of nine members, including the concurring votes of the permanent members". In practice, in recent years, an abstention by one of the permanent members has not been considered a veto, despite the plain wording of the article. There are many matters to which one or other of the Big Five are opposed — by policy, ideology or interest. It is an advantage of an international forum that cold policy considerations, ideological nonsense

and selfish self-interest are difficult to conceal. An opposing vote, a "veto", on resolutions about which client states, or the Third World, or simply humanity as a whole, feel strongly, would be the equivalent of "doing it in the street and frightening the horses". Some peace-keeping resolutions come into all three categories. An abstention can be a polite way of having the best of both worlds, because it is no longer considered a veto. It can be, and often is, no more than an indication of indecision, of inability to fully approve but unwillingness to completely impede. In any event, it is a moderate act. But the present interpretation of concurring is a tacit formula. It may not last. It could be upset at any time. Will some such formula arise if the continued presence of the UN in the Sinai and/or in Israel becomes an issue at some time in the future? There is no space to go into what the international lawyers claim are the differences between "affirmative votes" and "concurring votes".

Will the UN Play?

However, a much more basic problem emerges from the new agreement. Will the UN take on the job? The simple fact is that it cannot do so, without the agreement of the Soviet Union and China. The old days of confrontation between the Secretary General and the Security Council about the initiation and control of peace-keeping operations are gone. "In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations", says Article 24 of the Charter, "its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf." And Article 39 says that "The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken . . . to maintain or restore international peace and security". A modus vivendi has been reached whereby the Secretariat control day-to-day operations, keeping the Security Council informed. The wording of the Secretary General's first report on UNIFIL illustrates this by using a now familiar formula. Under the heading of "Concept of Operations" he lists three essential conditions for UNIFIL to be effective.

"FIRSTLY, it must have at all times the full confidence and backing of the Security Council..."

Bear in mind that this is a report **to** the Security Council, called for **by** that Council, and provided within 24 hours. In practice, "full confidence and backing" is too much to ask for, the world being what it is. The Soviet Union and China have strong reservations which they make concrete when it comes to paying a share of the costs for peace-keeping operations. It should also be remembered that the USSR and China are genuinely surprised at the allowances given to some contingents and feel that a more austere approach should be adopted.

But they have not opposed the UNIFIL operation. The Force Guidelines say "UNIFIL will be under the command of the United Nations, vested in the Secretary-General, under the authority of the Security Council. Command in the field will be exercised by a Force Commander appointed by the Secretary-General with the consent of the Security Council". Mr. Pelcovits' article, previously mentioned, gives some further background on this matter. Suffice to say, however, that recent newspaper reports about the reluctance of the Secretariat to take on the supervision of the new Agreement raise some very fundamental considerations. Cruise O'Brien dealt with many of them in his "United Nations: Sacred Drama".

The General Assembly

There has been much debate about the functions of the General Assembly in Peace-Keeping Operations. Again, there has been argument about the real meaning of the Charter wording. Does "primary responsibility" in Article 24 mean "exclusive responsibility?" Does "action" in Article 11 mean "enforcement" action only, (as the International Court of Justice has agreed)? Has the Assembly "residual power" to authorize a peacekeeping operation which has been vetoed in the Council? These may seem arid disputes; but lives may hang on them. The ordinary man will feel that if the Security Council fails to exercise its primary responsibility, because of disagreement among the permanent members, some other body should, and must, act. However, these arguments belong to the past; they are muted, if not resolved, nowadays. Most peacekeeping operations have, in fact, been authorized by the Security Council. One has been authorized by the General Assembly, without Security Council objection (UNTEA/UNSF) and by the General Assembly "after the demonstrated unwillingness of the Security Council to act (UNEF I). A good summary of the debates and the position of the protogonists is given in "UN Peace-keeping: An Analysis of the Elements of Past Operations" prepared for an International Conference in New York by Col. T. L. Fisher (1968). This paper gives a thorough analysis of all UN operations up to that time and contains some very creative thinking on the reforms needed.

What Happens Now?

In the "exchange of letters" published with the new Agreement President Carter wrote as follows to Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat:

"The United States believes the treaty provision for permanent stationing of United Nations personnel in the designated limited force zone can and should be implemented by the United Nations Security Council. The United States will exert its utmost efforts to obtain the requisite action by the Security Council. If the Security Council fails to establish and maintain the arrangements called for in the treaty, the President will be prepared to take those steps necessary to ensure the establishment and maintainance of an acceptable alternative multinational force."

We must wait and see. The position should be much clearer by the time this article is published. If the UN does not accept the task the future of UNEF II becomes questionable.

The Israeli Withdrawal

One of the lessons learnt from the past has been the need for slow, deliberate, step-by-step hand-overs of territory. Under the 1975 Agreement a comparatively small area was sub-divided and handed over piece by piece, over a three month period. As the Israelis withdrew from each piece, the UN took over. After a short period the UN handed over to the Egyptian authorities and moved on to take over the next piece. This avoided personal confrontations between field troops. These could, perhaps, lead to ill-tempered incidents which could escalate and jeopardize the agreement. Time was available for problems to be ironed out in one area, before new problems could arise in the next one. The schedule for this part of the agreement was formidable. Mr. Kissinger is said to have remarked that it was so complicated it had to work. And work it did. There were some problems, but the slow, saraband-like process never gave them a chance to pile-up or escalate.

For the "interim withdrawal" to the El Arish — Ras Muhammed line under the new Treaty an area much larger than the 1975 one is divided up into six sub-areas. Hand-overs will take two, three, five, seven and nine months. The final withdrawal across the international border can take up to three years (Annex 1.1.3.B). The procedures are somewhat the same as described for the 1975 Agreement.

The Joint Commission

A joint Commission consisting of Israeli and Egyptian representatives, with the Chief Co-Ordinator of United Nations Forces in the Middle East as Chairman, was set up under the 1975 Agreement. It was "to consider any problem arising from the Agreement and to assist the United Nations Emergency Force in the execution of its mandate".

The new Treaty also provides for a Joint Commission. Its functions are wider, and are laid down in much greater detail, than was the case with the 1975 Joint Commission, but there is no mention of a Chairman. The new Commission "shall invite a representative of the United Nations when discussing subjects concerning the United Nations, or when either party requests United Nations presence". This is surprising, in view of what the United Nations is expected to do in assisting implementation of this Treaty.

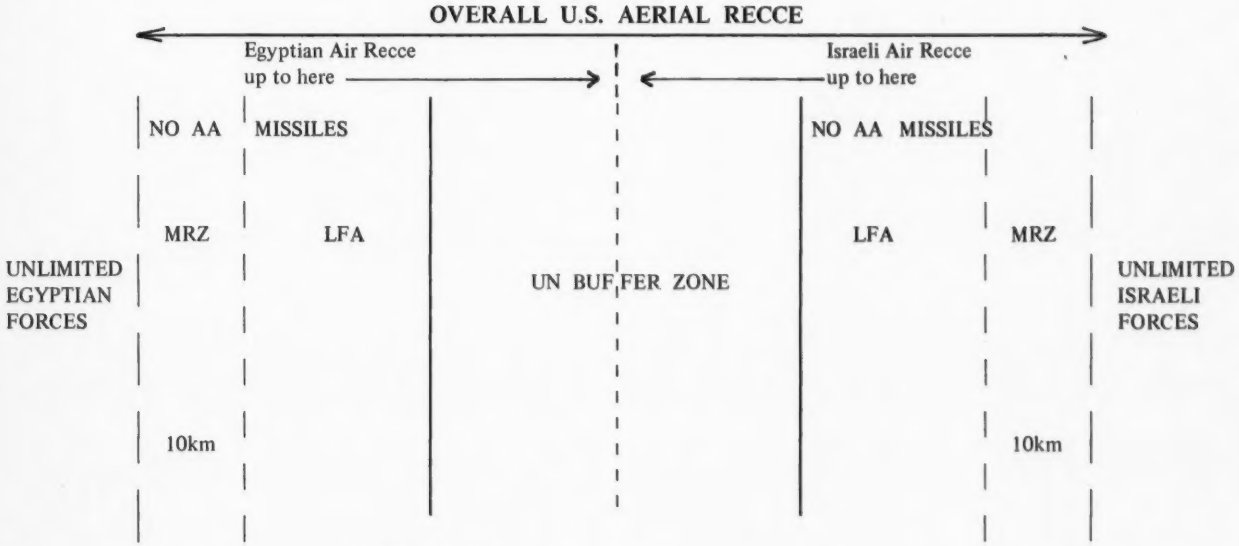
A further difference is that meetings are to be held at least once a month. No frequency was laid down in 1975. It may be said that the new arrangement will make greater demands for initiatives on the parties. There is some substance in the claim that peace-keeping operations tend to freeze the status quo and relieve the parties of the necessity for face-to-face negotiation. It is usual to point to Cyprus in this connection. The usual answer to this is that the military can only "hold the ring" and stop or minimize bloodshed. It is the business of the diplomats and politicians to get on with the job of peacemaking and peacebuilding.

It is intended that the Commission should be dissolved when the Israeli withdrawal is completed, but a liaison system will replace it. Liaison offices will be established in El Arish and Beersheba, connected by a direct telephone link. Direct lines with the UN will also be maintained by both offices. The provision for more frequent meetings, the location of the Liaison Offices, and the direct links, are all improvements. Liaison was not direct under the old agreement. It took place very far from the operational area and there were, of course, no links between the parties.

Limited Forces Areas

Before dealing with these as they appear in the new Treaty it may be useful to describe the concept behind them. When hostile forces face each other, even across an obstacle, it is axiomatic that it is almost impossible to maintain a cease-fire. Minor local clashes, even firing by jittery sentries can escalate into artillery duels. Good commanders, knowing that idleness has traditionally had a demoralizing effect on troops in static defence, and aware that their opposite numbers feel the same, will send out patrols and launch raids. The aims are to keep up morale and training as much as to gather intelligence or counter similar actions by the other side.

This happened even when the Egyptian and Israeli armies faced each other over an abstacle as formidable as the Suez Canal. Brave men crossed the obstacle from both sides. (Edgar O'Ballance's **"The Electronic War in the Middle East"** has an off-putting title for the general reader, but it gives



Not More than:–

8 Standard Inf. Bns.
75 Tanks
72 Artillery Pieces
(including heavy mortars exceeding 120mm)
8,000 personnel.

NO WEAPON WHICH COULD REACH THE "LINE OF THE OTHER SIDE" OF THE BZ

Fig 1: Schematic diagram – UN Buffer Zone with its Flanking "Limited Forces Areas" and "Missile Restricted Zones".

almost as much information about the raids and counter-raids, the mining and the ambushes, as it does about electronics.)

So the first requirement is a physical separation of the combatants to reduce the risk of what Pelcovits called "miscalculated encounter". There is nothing new about "Buffer Zones"; whole countries in Europe (such as Poland) have had the misfortune to be regarded as such in the past. The UN Buffer Zone under the 1975 Agreement was a good example. It was, of course, preceded by an "Area of Disengagement" under the 1974 Sinai Agreement. There is also a rather different "Area of Separation" still in existence between the Israelis and the Syrians in the Golan area.

Confidence Building

The Sinai BZ set up in 1975 was under UN control. Neither of the parties were to enter it, except under UN arrangements, and then for special purposes only. (There were, of course, several thousand Bedouin, whose forefathers had roamed the Desert for thousands of years.) At its narrowest the BZ was about 12 km wide. The background must be remembered. The Sinai, especially the North Sinai, connects Egypt with the Levant. It has been the classic invasion route in both directions for thousands of years. The battles fought there are numbered in hundreds. Since 1945 it has seen four wars — all surprise affairs. Neither Israel nor Egypt could have had any reason for confidence or trust in each other when the January 1974 Agreement was signed. But confidence amongst the parties is vital if peace-keeping is to succeed and grow into peacemaking and peacebuilding. So it was desirable that both sides should be able to fly up to the "median line" of the BZ and "look" into each other's forward areas. Provision for this was included in the 1975 Agreement. Careful rules about notifying these flights and the heights and courses to be flown were laid down. Aerial surveillance by the United States was also agreed to. This would provide further information of any preparations for pre-emptive strikes. For the fear of such strikes, given the memory of 1967 and 1973, must have preoccupied both parties.

Safeguards

One thing leads to another. Action-ready missile sites are an obvious danger to aerial reconnaissance — an irrational or vindictive individual could precipitate great damage to the confidence-building process. Heavy artillery or surface-to-surface missiles could fire across the BZ. All these considerations were met in the Sinai Agreements and, to a lesser extent perhaps, in the earlier Golan one:—

(a) There was provision that no anti-aircraft missiles were to be allowed in the LFAs, or in a further strip 10 km wide on either side of the LFAs. So Missile Restricted Zones (MRZs) existed from the edges of the Buffer Zone to a wide distance East and West of it.

(b) As a precaution against ground incidents it was agreed not to locate any weapon in areas from which the "line of the other side" could be reached, i.e. it should be impossible to fire across the BZ.

The concept is shown in schematic form in Fig. 1. Basically, the BZ is what the Conflict Studies people call a Confrontation Prevention Device. The LFAs and MRZ's are Confidence Building Measures.

It can be seen that these safeguards, or confidence-building measures, were comprehensive. Some loop-holes, which had caused problems in earlier agreements, were plugged. The special provision against mortars greater than 120mm is a case in point. (The term "artillery piece" had tended to be interpreted as excluding heavy mortars.)

Supervision and Verification

To sustain confidence, an Agreement of this type needs supervision and verification. This was largely done by UN Observers. In practice, it was not difficult to inspect ground-to-air missile sites and verify that no missiles, radar or control equipment were present. The artillery and mortar restrictions required that Observers had to have an ability to recognise and distinguish between different types of Soviet and American weapons — and in some cases, their modifications. Verification of troop strength and number of units can be much more difficult. It can be argued, of course, that in the fortnight between inspections missile sites could be made ready and additional troops, tanks and guns moved close to the Buffer Zone. This does not take account of aerial reconnaissance — by the Americans as well as the parties. There is also the "object of the exercise". If both sides want peace, but lack confidence in each other, nothing is more calculated to inhibit that confidence and frustrate that peace than large-scale efforts to circumvent the treaty. And there would have to have been large-scale ones if a surprise or pre-emptive attack was intended. There would still be the UN-manned Buffer Zone to traverse, with the incalculable political effects of both breaking a solemn agreement **and** of killing UN troops. These measures do not rule out the possibility of successful breaches of the agreement. History is full of successful deception plans, especially against 'static' obstacles or concepts. But we are dealing with responsible Governments here, answerable to world public opinion and their own press and

public. (This does not apply in South Lebanon, and its effects are serious.)

In **"Foreign Affairs"** for October 1974 it was suggested that UN troops complicate the decision of a potential attacker by forcing him to choose between ordering them to stand aside, and thus giving warning to the opponent, or driving through them and incurring the onus in the eyes of the world. This is to put the value of UN peacekeeping at its lowest. There are other considerations: as Pelcovits says a UN force is a "concrete token of world interest in maintaining the truce. More important, any breach of the UN zone would inevitably prompt reaction by the great powers, including the United States". It is also true that the whole apparatus of Buffer Zones, LFAs, MRZs, aerial reconnaissance and inspection reduces the chances of "war by miscalculation" — perhaps by coincidence of electronic malfunction, minor breaches and general jitteriness. Minor breaches there will be, sometimes inadvertently. Perhaps a local commander tries to be clever; perhaps higher authorities probe to find just how vigilant the UN is. The clear lesson here is that every minor breach must be taken up, as and when detected, by the authorities responsible for dealing with the party concerned. Allowing breaches to accumulate causes far more trouble. "Each side reads slackness in the UN's asserting authority on **its** side as a mirror image of what the other side is getting away with" as Pelcovits says.

Demilitarized Zones

If the BZ is a separation arrangement, and the LFAs, MRZs, recce flights and inspections are confidence building devices, how do we categorize the "Demilitarized Zone" in South Sinai which also emerged from the 1975 Agreement? Essentially this is a "peace-building" measure. This area, which included important oil-resources and installations, was handed over to UN by the Israelis, and by UN to the Egyptian **civil** authorities. "No military or para-military forces of any kind, military fortifications or military installations" were allowed in the area. The UN and the Egyptian civil police manned check-points close to each other. The Un verified that the police checked personnel and vehicles before allowing entry. These checkpoints were located at all the conventional entry points — whether road, harbour or airfield. The negotiations took place in Geneva. Inevitably it was found that some of the entry points — notably one broken pier and one mud-swamped airfield — were unusable. Nevertheless, as a matter of strict compliance with the Agreement, the UN manned them. It was fascinating to see the area coming slowly to life — the restoration of power, water, sewage and roads, the arrival of civilians, the repair of damaged houses. From the point of view of the UNTSO Observers who manned the checkpoints the work was monotonous. But the results, seen over a two-year period, clearly showed what peace-building, as an off-shoot of peace-keeping, meant.

The New LFAs

There is no equivalent of the Buffer Zone in the new Agreement, except for "interim and temporary" ones during the Israeli withdrawal. But there will be Limited Forces and Armaments Areas over the whole Sinai, and something approximating to DMZs on both sides of the Egyptian/Israeli frontier. The plan is shown in the map. Egypt resumes sovereignty over the whole Sinai and the UN Force is confined to Zone C. Its camps will be mainly located in

(a) "that part of . . . the Sinai lying within about 20 km of the Mediterranean Sea and adjacent to the international boundary; and
(b) the Sharm el Sheikh area.

Thousands of years of history, of invasion and counter-invasion, of broken armies and doomed men are in the background of the first area. The memory of 1967 dominates the second one.

Anti-aircraft missiles are mentioned in two places. There will be "seven AA artillery battalions, including individual surface-to-air missiles and up to 126 anti-aircraft guns of 37mm and above." It is not clear what the intention is about missiles in Zones B and C. In Zone D "The 'Israeli forces . . . will not include tanks, artillery and anti-aircraft missiles except individual surface-to-air missiles". It is presumed that individual surface-to-air missiles mean SAM 7s or Redeye type individual infantry weapons. If so a problem that arose under the 1975 Agreement will have been resolved — were these weapons "anti-aircraft missiles" within the meaning of the Agreement?

Inspections

An interesting point is that "verification" (UN personnel tend to use the term "inspections") of troop strengths, etc. are to be carried out by the United Nations Force in Zones A, B, and C and by Observers in Zone D. Formal verifications are to be twice a month as before, with "additional verifications" (special inspections) within 48 hours after the receipt of a request from either party. Up to this, all such work has been done by UNTSO teams, both on the Golan and in the Sinai. Clearly, a very large Observer Group would be required to inspect the troop and armament levels in Zones A and B, and they might be under-employed between inspections, so the new tasking is a necessary one. But there will be great problems involved. Continuity is very important in verifications — it is essential to use the same teams in the same areas over a period. This includes getting

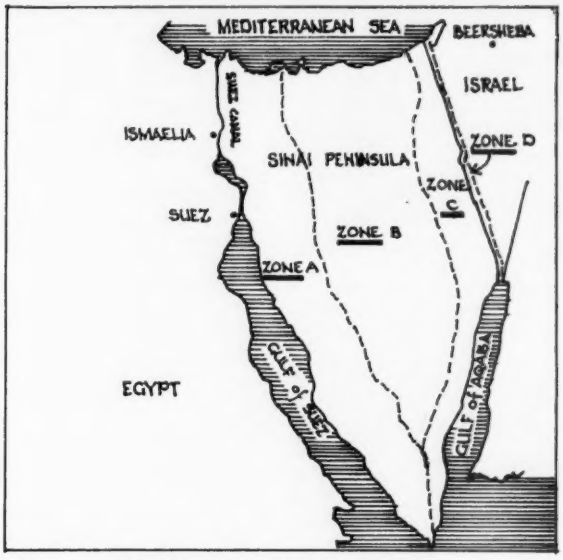


Fig: 2: Sinai Zoning after Israeli Withdrawal (1979 Agreement)

ZONE A
One Egyptian mechanized infantry division consisting of:—
Three mechanized infantry brigades
One armoured brigade
Seven field artillery battalions (up to 126 pieces)
Seven AA battalions including individual surface-to-air missiles and up to 126 AA guns of 37mm and above
Up to 230 tanks
Up to 480 armoured personnel vehicles
Up to 22,000 personnel.

ZONE B
Four Egyptian border battalions with light weapons and wheeled vehicles
The "main elements of the four border battalions will consist of up to a total of 4,000 personnel."

ZONE C
UN Forces and Egyptian civil police (armed with light weapons)
UN Force camps to be in this Zone, mainly near the Mediterranean and in the Sharm El Sheik area.

ZONE D
Israeli limited force of four infantry battalions
Up to 180 armoured personnel carriers
Up to 4,000 personnel
Force will not include tanks, artillery and AA missiles (except individual surface-to-air missiles)
UN Observers will be in this Zone.

Reprinted from *The Canadian*, March 1978.

new officers familiarized by understudy duty with experienced ones. One of the reasons why UNTSO Observers did this work was that its officers serve for much longer periods than the six months more usual with UNEF, UNDOF, etc. Continuity was, therefore, easier to secure. At least one team of two Observers was needed for each battalion area, with up to three teams for difficult or frequently changing areas. Accurate position-finding and map-marking require high professional standards in an area where there are few land-marks, and the maps are often inadequate. It will not be easy to verify troop and armament levels when 22,000 men, 230 tanks and 480 APCs are tactically deployed in an area 300 miles long. The inspecting teams will not have to cross the canal, but could have journeys of 3—4 hours from their camps at the extremities of Zone C before they get started. One day per fortnight is allowed, as before. It is dark around 1730 in November/December, so time will be at a premium. There will, of course, be plenty of manpower if a force comparable in strength to the present one is used. We have to remember, however, that it is not yet known whether the UN will have anything to do with the supervision of this agreement.

(To be concluded).

"20,000 SOLDATS"

–Lt. Cdr. LIAM SMITH NS

"20,000 Soldats!" — so read the high black headline that spanned the width of *La Depeche*, a Paris newspaper, whose special edition for the Pyrenees area of France came out on 20th May, 1979. Twenty-thousand military personnel of fifteen nations, men and women, many with their families, crowded through the streets of the small French town of Lourdes — a town just like any of ours nestling close to the Spanish border mountains. The paper recorded that troops in full uniform were there from Africa, Austria, Belgium, Canada, England, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and U.S.A. It spoke of "the festive mood of the people", the "cavalcade of military brotherhood" and in bold type summed up the atmosphere under the titles of *Liberte, Ouverture, Unite, Reflexion, Demarche, Esperance, Silence.* The first letters form the word *LOURDES* and the words themselves translate roughly as Freedom, Frankness, Unity, Reflection, Parades, Hope and Peace . . . . .

Hope and Peace — this surely sums up the atmosphere of Lourdes. The hopes and beliefs of millions of people, represented by their armies and navies, were carried through the streets as the bands played, the flags waved, the uniforms and insignia shone. Then the cheering of the side walks was left behind as they entered the peace, stillness and tranquility of the Grotto, and the same marching military thousands stood bareheaded and silent as they reflected on the events that had occurred there, over one hundred years previously. They joined in the prayers and services, first in their own languages and then, their backs to the swift flowing river Gave, combining in the *Ave Maria*, the great international hymn of Lourdes. A remarkable sight, a remarkable sound! How does one otherwise account for the unity and obvious joy in each other's presence from so many military forces, from so many differing nations? They prayed together and when it was done, they sang, danced and enjoyed themselves together in one great international soiree!

Twenty of us left Haulbowline on 15th May and met the contingent from Southern Command in Collins Barracks Cork. Our Chaplain, Fr. Michael O'Brien, CF, was in our party and Fr. Gerry Keohane CF of Collins Barracks joined us there. Our Warrant Officer was P. J. Crowe. There were about forty in the party when we set out for Rosslare, transport arranged by Lieut. Jim Carroll of the Field S. and T., himself also in the group. At Rosslare we met up with the Eastern Command contingent, led by the overall Commanding Officer of the group, Lt. Col. Dan Sheehan. Joining us here too were the 2nd Battn. Sgt. Major, Paddy Norris, and the personnel from Western and Curragh Commands, including fifteen members of the 1st Bn. Pipe Band. The lone soldier from Cavan Barracks was the evergreen Corporal Vincent Drumm, "C" Company 29 Bn.

At Rosslare, the chief organiser Fr. Paddy Bresnan CF, Cathal Brugha, and the organising secretary Lieut. John Minihane, 2nd Bn. lead the way aboard the Irish Continental vessel *St. Patrick*. We now numbered about 80.

From Le Havre by train to Paris where three buses, manned by the French army, were awaiting us and they conveyed us to the army barracks, Caserne Mortier, on the eastern outskirts of Paris. A welcoming party showed us to our quarters and to much needed food and refreshment. All personnel shared the same mess, set up in self-service equipment, and the cost to all of us but a fraction of the outside tariffs.

At 2000 hrs. on Thursday we were on a troop train with 1500 French soldiers and sailors en route, overnight, to Lourdes. We had sleepers but there was little sleep as our French friends came through the train to talk to us, to sing for us, to be with us, on the long journey south. Sleepy and bleary-eyed we staggered

Irish Cadet Guard of Honour about to take their place among the military guards of honour present at the Monument to the Dead, Lourdes. (Photo: Capt. B. Rohan)

on to the platform at Lourdes at 0630 hrs. on Friday 18th May. And it was raining! Our spirits rose when we saw Sr. Benine with three buses standing by to meet us. Most of the Navy were accommodated at the International Hostel, Chemin de Jarrozo, run by Sr. Benine. The others, with the army representatives, stayed at Hotels St. Daniel and St. Catherine.

Now we had to wash, shave, have breakfast, clean uniforms and be on parade at 0845. Our Pipe Band caused quite a stir as we marched down through the town. People crowded out of their houses to see, cheer and clap. There were calls of "Irelande" as we passed through to the Grotto. On the bridge spanning the Gave, we met up with the remainder of the Eastern Command group who had arrived at 0500 by air from Dublin with the QMG, Major General M. J. Murphy and Fr. Phelim McCabe HCF. The Navy added Lieut. Jim O'Keeffe, Slua Muiri, Waterford to our numbers. At 0930 there was a concelebrated mass at the Grotto. After mass a wreath was laid by the QMG at the Irish plot in the Lourdes Cemetery.

At 1400 there was the ceremony of the Stations of the Cross in the open air on the hillside above the Rosary Basilica. There was a great crowd of uniformed personnel present for this exercise, conducted by Fr. Gerry Keohane CF. Later the vigil devotions, in the Upper Basilica, were given by Fr. Michael O'Brien CF. At the concelebrated Mass that followed, Fr. Paddy Bresnan CF was the organist. The lesson was read by Lt. Cdr. L. smith, N.S.

On Saturday we saw the blessing of the sick and invalids in the huge Basilica of Pius X. This was an exciting, colourful assembly at which the colours of all the participating nations were paraded. Cadets from the Curragh Military College formed a special guard for our flag, which was carried by Lieut. John Minihane. A bishop from Korea, travelling with his country's delegation, conducted this ceremony in English. Korean children carried poles with myriads of coloured streamers and French children carried palm fronds. A French army choir and military band provided the music. The lighting, artistically coloured and concealed was varied to suit the mood and the moment. A private delegation from our group represented us at a military ceremony at the Monument to the Dead.

At 2100 we assembled, all 20,000 of us, for the torchlight procession. Due to weather the actual route was curtailed and the main ceremony was again held in Pius X Basilica. The arrangements here were a masterpiece of organisation and

Pictured during the 1979 Lourdes Pilgrimage are from left: Capt. Brendan Rohan, 4 Mot. Sqn. Longford; Lt. Jean-Phillippe Ganacia, Parachute Regt. of 17 Combat Engineers, South of France; Lt. Rick Mainville 509th Independant Parachute Bn. (USA) based in Europe.

efficiency as the troops of each nation present arrived at the Basilica to be whisked into their own allotted places. Many dignitaries were present, including the French Minister for Defence, M. Yvon Bourges, our own Major General Murphy, the Mayor of Lourdes, etc. The sounds of that night will long stay in our memories as brass band, male voice choir (all military), organ and troops joined in a massive musical prayer. The finale was even more exciting as the national colours and the clergy left the altar, and the young people of the armies and navies of the nations, moved on to it, joined hands together, swung, swayed, sang and danced for another two hours or more. It was a spontaneous movement of joy, friendship and unity. Backed by the band the sound of *Michael Row the Boat Ashore* in many tongues soared through the huge Basilica. We may not have known the language, but we all knew when to join in with *Alleluiah*.

On Sunday 20th May we assembled for the International Concelebrated Mass and at 1415 there was a farewell ceremony for military pilgrims on the Esplanade. At 1930 we were once more back on a troop train, with our French friends heading for Paris. A unit of the French army had to be dropped near the Belgian border so that we had to leave the train at 0600 on Monday 21st May, sixty miles from Paris. It was only a three minute stop on a raw misty morning, but when the train moved on, we saw at the other side of the track, our three buses from Caserne Mortier, with three smiling drivers and an officer with a hand outstretched in welcome. Gladly we boarded and set out for Paris to arrive at Mortier at 0830 in time for the last breakfast session. At 1115 we had a special parade on the barrack square for which the full French garrison turned out in number one uniform. Lt. Col. Sheehan presented a tricolour to Lt. Col. Antonin on behalf of the army units and Lt. Cdr. Smith presented the Naval Service plaque on behalf of the Navy. Lt. Col. Sheehan, in his best French, thanked the Commander for his most generous hospitality and kindness to us all. Lt. Col. Antonin replied stating that the tricolour would be flying over Caserne Mortier when we returned! At the Colonel's request the pipe band from the Western Command played a selection of airs on the square and again later during the luncheon at the Officers' Mess, which was also attended by civil servants from the nearby Defence Ministry. They cheered and clapped the music. During the meal the Colonel presented plaques of his unit to Lt. Col. Sheehan and Lt. Cdr. Smith.

The next two days were spent sightseeing in Paris, organized by PO Tom McSharry, and on Wednesday 23rd we found ourselves at Le Havre boarding the *St. Killian* for Rosslare.

Lt. Col. Dan Sheehan, AMC, presenting the Irish Tricolour to Lt. Col. Antonin, OC Camp Mortier, Paris, as a mark of appreciation for the tremendous hospitality shown to the Irish Troops who stayed in Paris en route to Lourdes.
(Photo: Capt. B. Rohan)

CARA VISITS McKEE

Who says people don't care? Soldiers do. On a June afternoon, the sunshine showed off the beauty of McKee Barracks to some 60 visitors from CARA Cheshire Home, who came on the invitation of the Camp Commandant, Lt. Col. A. Crowe.

It was a happy day. All units in Barracks laid on demonstrations of training and equipment and the Band of the 5 Inf. Bn. lent music and colour to the scene. Visitors and soldiers joined in the spirit of the event and at the end of the day everybody felt the better for it. The visit concluded with an al fresca tea, photographs and a march past.

P.S. The Matron of CARA was later presented with a cheque for £300 subscribed by the Officers, NCOs and Men of Army HQ and McKee Bks.

DFAA FIXTURES

CANOEING 8 August, Liffey
ANGLING 9/12 August, Killybegs
PITCH & PUTT 27/28 August, Athlone.

Eastern Command

CONCLUSION OF M.T. COURSE AT McKEE BKS., DUBLIN

BACK, L. to R.: Cpl. A. Martin, Ptes. E. Smith, P. Williams, P. McDonald, V. Devoy, L. Woods, P. Reilly, A. Hayes and Cpl. P. Walsh. **FRONT, L. to R.:** Ptes. P. Maguire, S. Yeates, G. Lennon, P. Gibbons, A. Hopper, B. Keely, P. Clarke.
(Photo: P. Jones)

1st NCO MANAGEMENT COURSE HELD AT ASC IN APRIL

SEATED, L. to R.: P.O., P. Poruton; Sgt. F. Regan; BQMS G. Devlin; ASC. Comdt. P. Mulcahy O/C; Comdt. L. Leaney; ASC. Sgt. P. Walsh; Sgt. E. Hoare; Sgt. D. Geraghty. **BACK STANDING, L. to R.:** Sgt. J. Boyle; ASC Sgt. D. Norris; Sgt. R. Donoghue; Sgt. A. Metcalfe; Sgt. J. Clifford; Sgt. P. O'Flynn; Sgt. M. Devlin; Sgt. O. Brady; Sgt. D. McHugh; Sgt. D. Conroy.
(Photo: P. Jones)

Southern Command

Winners of the Southern Command Shoot (Rifle Section) held recently at Kilworth Ranges were the 1st Motor Sqn. Fermoy. *Back Row — L. to R.:* Tpr. Fitzpatrick; Lt. Burns; Comdt. Heaslip, O.C., Tpr. McCarthy and Cpl. Byrnes. *Front Row:* Tprs. Dillon and Murphy. (Photo Cpl. D. Magennis)

Winners of the Gustaf Team Shoot were 1st FAR Murphy Barracks, Ballincollig, *From L. to R.:* Sgts. W. Murphy; P. O'Connell; Lt. Col. Bunyan, O/C: Sgt. L. Murphy and Capt. C. Lawlor. Capt. Lawlor also won the Gustaf Ind.
(Photo: Cpl. D. Magennis)

Winners of the Falling Plates Section were the 12th Inf. Bn. with a time of 18 seconds. *Back Row – L. to R.:* Lt. Col. T. Hartigan, O.C.; Cpl. Green; Ptes. Didighan; Harris and Lt. Cronin. *Front Row:* Ptes. Kearney; O'Neill; Harvey and O'Shea.
(Photo: Cpl. D. Magennis)

Cpl. W. Murphy, HQ S. Comd. who graduated on the 48th Potential NCOs Course at Collins Bks. from Mitchelstown photographed with his wife Elizabeth.(Photo: Cpl. D. Magennis)

The Guard of Honour at Daunts Square, Cork for the Eucharistic Procession *L. to R.:* Capt. P. Farry; Lts. M. Boylan; N. O'Connor; Comdt. B. O'Donovan; Lts. T. Murray; F. Murtagh; T. Griffin and T. Quirke. (Photo: Cpl. D. Magennis)

Group from the 1 Fd. Coy. S & T during presentations to retiring personnel, include *Front L. to R.:* Lt. Lane; Sgt. McCarthy; C/S O'Donnell; Cpl. O'Shea; Comdt. Cobbe; Cpl. Cambridge; Lt. Carroll. *Centre:* Ptes. Harris; McLoughlin; Sgt. Dennehy; Ptes. Daly; Leahy; Sgts. Purcell; Twohig; Cpl. McCarthy; Pte. Culhane; Sgts. Brogan and O'Neill. *Rear:* Ptes. Healy; Lenihan; Cpls. Duggan; Hoare and Pte. Gubbins.
(Photo: G. Moore)

Western Command

6th Infantry Battalion teams, winners of the Rifle Team, L. M. G. Team and Rifle Marksman's Cup. They were second in the Gustaf and Falling Plates teams. *Kneeling:* Sgt. Colsh; Pte. Dunne; Pte. Reliman and CQ Wallace. *Seated:* Pte. Liddy; Cpl. O'Donnell; Lt. Harvey; Lt. Col. O'Connor, OC; Comdt. Tallon, 2 i/c; Capt. Kelly; Cpl. Gorman and CS Collins. *Standing:* Sgt. Crawford; Cpl. Devine; Sgt. Kelly; Ptes. Cummins, Caldwell; Cpls. Lipsett; Dunne; Pte. Spain and Sgt. Cooley. *Standing rear:* Cpls. Grehan; Larkin; Ptes. Kiernan; Abbott; Nally; Deeney and Manning. (Photo: Sgt. P. Cooley)

Four prizewinners of No. 5 Recruit Platoon from left to right: Ptes. M. Breslin, Best Shot G.P.M.G.; M. Walker, Best Kit; W. Smith, Best Soldier and H. Farren, Best Shot F.N. Rifle.

Winners of the Broderick Trophy in the Western Command Sports *L. to R.:* Lts. P. Quinlan; P. McGonagle; Ptes. S. Carlin; N. Martin; R. Guthrie with on right Brig. Gen. J. M. Stewart and on left Col. J. Reynolds. (Photo: Sgt. P. Devaney)

Winners at the W. Comd. Sports *L. to R.:* Capt. R. King; Lt. B. Geraghty; Cpl. P. Giles. (Photo: Sgt. P. Devaney)

Lt. Col. D. Mulvihill, O/C 28 Inf. Bn. seen cutting the tape at the opening of the new Billiards and Snooker Club at Finner Camp. (Photo: Sgt. J. O'Brien)

At the 28 Inf. Bn. Annual Shooting Competitions L. to R.: CQMS J. Berrigan; Sgt. G. Edwards; Lt. N. McEvoy; C/S W. McDonagh; Pte. J. Mahon; Lt. G. O'Leary; Cpl. Pat Hartigan and Sgt. J. McGrath. (Photo: Sgt. John O'Brien)

Curragh Command

Curragh personnel who took part in the recent National League Final between Roscommon and Cork. *L. to R.:* Capts. J. Courtney, S. Kilbride and D. Earley.

Cpl. J. Byrne Footballer of the Year, McGee Bks., Kildare being presented with his trophy by Lt. Col. K. O'Halloran with, on left Sgt. J. Dignam and on right Capt. P. O'Grady.

Cpl. P. Murphy, Depot Artillery, winner of the Command and All Army 5,000 metres for a record 6 times, seen here being presented with his Command award by Lt. Col. J. Fagan, E.O. Curragh Command. Also in the picture is Comdt. N. Hegarty, O.C. ASPC. (Photo: Sgt. Dowling)

The Sam Maguire Cup being admired by Cadets M. McQuillan, D. Harvey, and M. Reidy when it was on a visit to the Cadet School recently. (Photo: Cadet D. O'Sullivan)

Kildare Barrack Soccer Team winners of the 1979 Curragh League. *Front L. to R.:* Gnr. M. Dooley; Sgt. T. Ryan; Capt. P. O'Grady CQMS. E. Fitzsimons; Cpl. N. Dowling; Cpl. E. Sage; Pte. F. Darling; Gnr. S. Donnelly. *Back:* Cpls. J. Foley; R. Parry; J. Brennan; J. Byrne; A. Howlett; G. Power; Sgt. J. Dignam.

Army Orienteering Champions — Cadets P. Deevy, D. O'Sullivan, P. Farrell, P. Condon (Indv. winner), B. Grennan. (Photo: Cadet D. O'Sullivan)

Air Corps

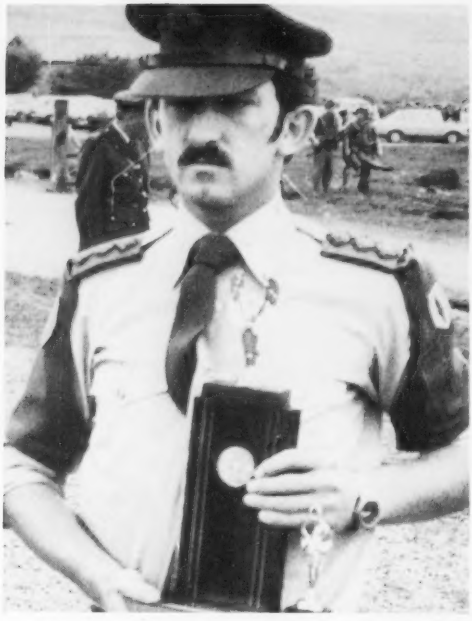
Pictured outside the Officers Mess, Baldonnel in late May on the occasion of a Dinner for some elder retired officers of the Air Corps with O/C Air Corps Col. J. O'Connor. Included are Col. P. Quinn, Col. P. Swan, Col. A. O'Byrne, Dr. A. Quigley, Col. W. Keane, Lt./Col. O'Cathain, Lt./Col. D. Johnson. (Air Corps photo)

Helicopter Air Rescue at Gormanston Open Day. Pilot Lt. J. Kirke, Winch Operator Cpl. N. Donnelly and Crewman A/M Cronin. (Air Corps photo)

Prizewinners at the Passing Out Parade of NCOs at Casement Aerodrome were *L. to R.*: Lt. D. Glavin; Cpls. T. Byrne; S. Gleeson; N. Quirke; M. Kenny; N. Lacey; P. Nolan; R. Coventry and Capt. K. Croke. (Air Corps photo)

Heli. Crews to Mountaineers: Cpl. John Manning (left) and Sgt. Willie Byrne, both Winch Operator/Winchmen with Heli. Sqdn. Baldonnel who passed the exacting Mountain Leadership Course, run by A.F.A.S. Tiglin recently. In addition, Sgt. Byrne is an experienced Heli. Technician and a qualified Scuba Diver (2 Star), being Diving Officer of the Air Corps Sub-Aqua Group.

Sports Day, Gormanston. Getting ready for the next Olympics *L. to R.*: Starter Comdt. Liam Mulligan, Lt. Col. Pat Cranfield and Comdt. Pete McMahon.



Winner of the Ind. Pistol championship Capt. N. Farragher, 27 Inf. Bn. (Air Corps photo)

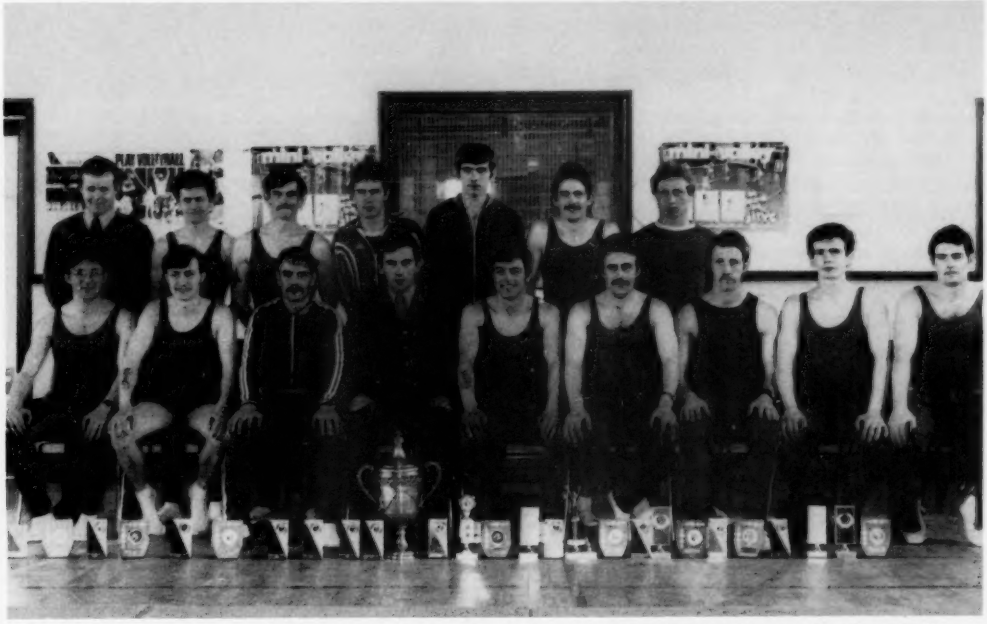
Capt. C. Lawlor, 1 FA Regt. Ballincollig winner of the Gustaf Ind. Championship. (Air Corps photo)

Lt. M. Meally 9 Inf. Bn. Castlecomer winner of the FCA Ind. Rifle championship. (Air Corps photo)

Pte. S. Carolan, W. Comd. Best Overall athlete at the All Army Sports with the Gen. Mulcahy Trophy. (Air Corps photo)

Team from the 1 Mot. Sqn. winners of the All Army Rifle Team Championships, incl. Lt. J. Burns; Cpl. J. Byrne; Tprs. J. Fitzpatrick; T. Dillon and T. Murphy with Comdt. D. Heaslip. (Air Corps photo)

12 Inf. Bn. team, winners of the Falling Plates competition. (Air Corps photo)



Eastern Comd. Team, winners of the Senior and Novice All Army Gymnastics Championships this year. *Front L. to R.:* Ptes. O'Hara and Lamb; Sgt. J. Byrne (trainer); Lt. Storan; Sgt. Clancy; Tpr. Hutchinson; Cpl. Rolloston; Pte. Lynch and Cpl. Parsons. *Back:* Ptes Ward; Maguire; Robinson; Clinton; Foster; Cpl. Broderick and Pte. Carey.

ORIENTEERING

The All Army Orienteering Championships were held in Kilworth Forest and proved to be highly successful for the Cadet School.

This year 2 Cadet Teams qualified to go forward from the Command Championships to the All Army.

On the first day, the Cadet A and B Teams came in first and second respectively in the Novice Team Event with Cadet Condon taking the individual title.

On the next day, 10 Cadets joined Capts. Young and Smith to form four relay teams representing the Military College.

The best results came from the Military College A Team, which was narrowly beaten into third place in the competition.

WHAT THE PAPERS NOTICE

BALLOTS AND BULLETS

The secret ballot was one of the democratic virtues we heard about in our civics classes at school. It appears to have lost some of its secrecy according to the following report in the *Evening Herald* after the recent Euro election.

"SOLDIERS SPOILED VOTES

HOMESICK Irish soldiers serving overseas — some of whom have not received a letter from home for four months — were responsible for scores of spoiled votes in the Leinster Euro constituency.

There were over 15,000 spoiled votes in Leinster, and hundreds of them appeared to have come from Curragh-based soldiers now with the UN force in the Lebanon.

The ballot papers were sent out by special courier to enable the troops to vote in the Euro elections. But typical of the soldier's disgruntlement with the lack of regular news from home was the ballot paper on which the message was scrawled: "I have not had a letter for nearly four months, why should I vote in this stupid election".

Some were even explicitly abusive and according to F.F. Director of Elections, Mr. Albert Reynolds, there were probably a couple of hundred spoiled votes of this type."

If those eagle eyed observers know that much about the spoiled papers how much do they know about how the conscientious soldiery voted? And we are still 5 years away from 1984!

QUIDNUNC

By the death of Seamus Kelly, the Army and *An Cosantoir* lost a good friend in the Newspaper world. The *Irishman's Diary* column which he wrote for 30 years invariably commented on current Defence Force activities often with a typical "Break" on how such events had been conducted in the good old days in McKee Bks., by "the Corps". For Seamus Kelly had been a gunner in McKee and later, as his close friend Terry O'Sullivan wrote, "was in his GHQ days given the dreadful job of looking after the Press".

In the *Irish Times* obituary D.G. wrote:

"Seamus first came into the ken of this writer almost 40 years ago as a stalky lieutenant, all green jacket, yellow breeches, flaming hair, cherry leggings and boots. Of a large draft of junior officers who were then posted to GHQ, a number are still around: Terry O'Sullivan of the Evening Press; Jack Brennan of the Jesuits; Paddy Joe Liddy, a serving officer; Bob Boyd also from Belfast, who went off to be a hotelier in Achill and

Pictured at the changeover of HQ UNFICYP NCO Staff at Nicosia, Cyprus are *L. to R.*: CQMST. Butler, 23 Inf. Bn.; CQMS H. Nugent, McKee Bks. Coy; Lt. Gen. J. J. Quinn, Force Comdr., UNFICYP; Lt. Col. T. Waters, HQ UNFICYP; C/S A. Murphy, McKee Bks. Coy and C/S R. Deegan, Depot Engrs. C/S Deegan and CQ Butler have returned home. C/S Murphy and CQ Nugent will serve with UNFICYP for a 12 month period.

is there yet; P. M. Quinlan and more . . . . .

He loved the Army. He still had countless friends there and there are countless memories of him among his old comrades, his journalistic colleagues, and that vast public outside who read him and argued with him . . . and read him."

REORG

"A plan to reorganise the country's Defence Forces, mainly by changing the present integrated structure of the Army and the F.C.A." was how the *Irish Press* described Mr. Molloy's announcement. "The plan will chiefly entail the separation of the Permanent Defence Forces and F.C.A. Units so that the field combat force will be exclusively drawn from the Army. The F.C.A. will mainly have a local defence role.

It is also intended to build up a strong first line reserve."

Jim Farrelly in the *Irish Independent* concentrated on the financial side. "Millions for new-look defence forces" was the headline calculated to send shivers through the cash registers. The proposals according to Farrelly "will also mean a massive investment in field artillery computer equipment, laser range finders, anti-tank missile training equipment, muzzle velocity analysers and improved 81mm mortars."

The *Cork Examiner* had a very full report on the reorganisation and explained that it "also envisages the establishment of a Directorate of Reserve Forces with responsibility for the development of all reserve forces — First Line, F.C.A. and Slua Muire".

In the *Evening Press*, Security Affairs correspondent Tom Brady, had a quote from one of those Army Officers he seems to bump into from time to time. Wrote Tom —

Col. William Callaghan has been promoted to Brigadier General and appointed Assistant Chief of Staff, replacing Brig-Gen. Redmond O'Sullivan who has retired.

Col. Dermot Hurley has been promoted to Brigadier General and appointed as General Officer Commanding, Curragh Command in succession to Brig-Gen. P. D. Hogan who has retired.

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"A decision to set up the F.C.A. as a separate unit was welcomed today by Army Officers who said that Regular Brigade Commanders would now be in a better state of combat readiness for large scale alerts".

We are sure Sirs, that the young officer meant that the Brigades would be in a better state, not the Brigadiers.

The *Independent* editorialised on the matter and said "Many of the details of the plans will be far too technical for the average man, but what he will take from the Minister's announcement is the sense that modernisation is about to overcome the Army, and that the F.C.A.is to do what its name suggests it should be doing — looking after defence matters, if needed, in its own particular areas."

PAY UP

The most widely-read stories of the month, of course, were those under such headings as "ARMY TO GET HIGHER ALLOWANCES FOR SPECIAL DUTIES" and "BIG INCREASES IN PAY FOR ARMY NAVY"

Liam Ryan in the *Independent* concentrated on the allowances angle and said "A new system of pay allowance is on the way for the officers and men of the Army and for those on security duty at Portlaoise Prison it will mean a maximum extra of £5.25 per day". He explained that the new security allowance "has been designed to compensate men for the disabilities of military life, such as long and unsocial hours of duty, exposure to danger, frequent transfers and the restrictions inherent in military discipline".

The *Irish Press* introduced percentages for all the increases and reported "Substantial pay rises for the Army and Navy have been announced, which in addition to increases paid earlier this year, will mean a 20 to 40 p.c. pay boost compared to last year". The Press worked it out that "wage rates for work at Portlaoise prison are Ptes. (up 43 p.c.), Cpls. (up 41 p.c.) and Sgts. (up 38 p.c.)."

The following day came reports that "A confusing set of increases in Army allowances was being studied today by soldiers and non-commissioned officers, and nobody seemed able to work out how much the increases meant to the average weekly pay.

Even Department of Defence officials found difficulty in giving a breakdown of the complex rises.

An official spokesman could not say today whether the Portlaoise allowance will be payable to men on stand-by duty in the prison."

Was it Milton who said "They also serve who only stand and wait".

One body who had no doubts about the increases was the Post Office Workers Union who had taken large advertisements in the newspapers replying to a Ministerial Broadcast. The advert concluded: "Dramatic increases in Army pay and allowances have recently been announced. Post Office employees have been subjected to rougher treatment by robbers than have soldiers but the Post Office attitude to allowances is far less favourable. Army personnel have no Trade Union. Allowances are imposed!"

Comdt. B. O'Reilly, O/C 'B' Coy 28 Inf. Bn. Rockhill House, Letterkenny receives the *'Democrat Cup* from Mr. C. A. King, President, *Donegal Democrat Ltd.* 'B' Coy Team won the 28 Inf. Bn. Annual Shooting Competitions held recently at Finner Camp. *Back Row — L. to R.:* Pte. Crossan; Cpl. J. O'Neill; Lt. J. Maguire; Sgt. N. Grant; Ptes. J. O'Brien and J. Murray. *Front:* Ptes. S. Cassidy, J. Duggan; Sgts. K. Reid and T. Jordan. (Photo: Sgt. J. O'Brien)

MAY MAGILL

Ireland's current affairs Monthly Magazine as it styles itself had two articles of Army interest in its May issue.

"A Lebanese journalist reporting for *Magill*" headed his article "IRISH UNDER CHRISTIAN FIRE" and opened with the ominous sentence "It is only a matter of time before there are fatalities among the Irish troops serving with the UN forces in southern Lebanon".

The Housewife's Choice

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According to *Magill's* man "The Irish soldiers are chaffing at the peace-keeping bit. 'Wouldn't I just love to get my hands on those Christians' he quotes one God-fearing Irish private as saying". *Magill's* map is one of the best yet reproduced in a Lebanon report and the range of photographs is good if a bit out of date. Mr. David Andrews will be disappointed to read that "he was unable to undertake his planned visit to the troops" but we were delighted to read that "On direction from U.N. Commander Erskine, IRISH TANKS moved into position' to confront Major Haddad's Shermans".

Magill's other article "The Visible Army" by Don Lavery and Brian Trench advanced the theory that the PDF is "The only European defence force geared primarily for counter-subversive operations, the new Irish Army has become modern, professional and commonplace in Irish life."

Not commonplace enough evidently because we are told — "It seems too, that Army chiefs have decided on a policy of mutual familiarisation between soldiers and civilian population. Convoys of trucks and Land Rovers frequently speed through the streets of major towns and cities for NO very obvious reason. It is part of the training which is aimed at ensuring that young soldiers facing demonstrators across a barbed wire barricade would not be as nervous as those who did so at the Curragh prison in the summer of 1972." A novel form of training indeed. Some of these mythical training convoys should stop at the petrol queues and this would really test their nerves. The article goes on to say the Army is so short of transport "it could only muster 52 trucks during the Bus Strike in January". No wonder, all the transport is out speeding through towns and cities on this familiarisation course.

The need for "familiarisation" between soldiers and civilian population becomes more obscure when you read the final paragraph — "another characteristic of the Irish Army which is peculiar amongst its West European counterparts; the largest proportion of soldiers who live at home".

It's all very confusing, interesting but confusing. However, the conclusion reached by the co-authors is — "The slide to greater military involvement in military affairs has been steady and consistent".

IN THE DUMPS

We warned you in May that the Irish Housewives Association had called on the Government "to mobilise" the Army to clear domestic refuse from Dublin streets". Well if you are the Housewives choice how can you refuse.

So the June weekend papers all had reports headed by happy headlines such as "HARD WORK? ITS A LOT OF RUBBISH!" and pictures of ecstatic soldiery up to their boots in bins. Indeed

Comdt. J. Cummins, 29 Inf. Bn. and Comdt. F. Hearns, 27 Inf. Bn., prizewinners in the E. Comd. Sports. They both ran for the Army in Brussels in 1966. (Photo: C/S M. Murphy)

the Herald report claimed that the soldiers "seemed to enjoy their unusual role as makeshift rubbish collectors". Nobody got near enough to the happy warriors to record their opinions of the exercise but one lady in Clontarf wrote to the *Irish Times* on their behalf as follows:—

SEND IN THE TROOPS

Sir,

It was with dismay that I noticed on the television on Friday night the conditions under which the soldiers are collecting dirt and rubbish from ditches around Dublin.

It would seem elementary that each dump would first have been sprayed with disinfectant. Then the soldiers, wearing protective clothing, and heavy duty gauntlets, would move in to do their job on behalf of a beset city.

Instead these men were asked to collect the rubbish with bare hands. It seems that their

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superiors were prepared thoughtlessly to expose their men to skin disease, typhoid and typhus. It is quite shameless that the soldiers should be treated in this manner to cover up for the antics of a supine government.

Yours etc.
MARY A. QUINN
58, Kincora Grove,
Clontarf,
Dublin 3.

Let us hope the Quinn bin was duly collected next day as a gesture of gratitude and that the collectors all wore the gloves that were issued to them for the purpose.

One out-of-town member of the Dustbin Brigade complained that he had been lured into the group by an unscrupulous NCO who promised him "a dirty week-end in Dublin".

SEXISM IN THE RANKS

The Minister for Defence moved an estimate for his Department for over £116 million and gave some further information on reorganisation, pay, "and the intensive recruiting campaign to commence in the near future".

However, it was a remark by his Fine Gael opposite number Mr. James White, that provoked that headline in the *Irish Independent*. Welcoming the establishment of a Womens Corps, Mr. White remarked "If you have flashy looking women in the army, you are going to have flashier looking men."

Marianne Heron of the *Irish Independent* devoted her weekly article to Mr. White's gaffe and wrote:

"His comments suggest discrimination based on looks. The plain girls aren't going to get much of a look in in Mr. White's army. Only the good-looking gals will be recruited to entice even better looking men into the force."

We appreciate that last phrase "to entice EVEN BETTER LOOKING MEN into the force". But to paraphrase a famous Army expression — where would you get better looking men.

Back to the battle. In the *Evening Press*, Miss (sorry Ms.) Sylvia Meehan, Chairwoman of the Employment Equality Agency, called on the Leader of Fine Gael to refute Mr. White's comments. "It was disgraceful that a Deputy could make sexist remarks during a Dail debate, which were damaging to women".

To date we have seen no mention of an attack on Mr. White by angry army Colonels. According to the *Irish Times* account of the Defence debate Mr. White also said "He thought that the retirement age could be lower in the Army as he was aware of ONLY ONE COLONEL LAST YEAR WHO WAS UNDER THE AGE OF 60". And we thought they all looked so depressingly youthful. Anyway we read that Mr. White is now in a better position to defend himself against the slings and arrows of outraged furies. He has been appointed Chief Whip of his party and Mr. Eddie Collins is the new Spokesman on Defence.

RECRUITING

The *Cork Examiner* had a detailed article on Army life by Pat Brosnan, with pictures by Michael Olney. It concluded invitingly "and after a thirsty days work or recreation there is plenty of time for sipping creamy pints in the mess — and at very attractive prices too".

The conclusion may be attractive but the opening paragraph will bring a frown of disbelief to those only too well aware of the present incidence of duty on all sides.

(Continued on Page 216)

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OFFICERS PROMOTIONS – JUNE

NAME	TO	FROM	TO
William Callaghan	Brig-Gen	UNTSO	A.CS, A.H.Q.
Dermot Hurley	Brig-Gen	CSs Br. A.H.Q.	G.O.C. Curragh Comd.
Edmond Russell	Col.	E.O., HQ S. Comd.	O.C. 1 Bde.
Domhnal O'Suibhne	Col.	E.O., HQ W. Comd.	O.C. 4 Bde.
John P. Connole	Col.	O.C. (Engr. Offr.) Army App.Sch.	D.Engrs.
Sean A. Doolan	Lt. Col.	O.C. (Engr. Offr.) 1 Maint. Engr. Coy.	O.C. (Engr. Offr.) Army App. Sch.
Donal L. Murphy	Lt. Col.	O.C. (Engr. Offr.) 3 Maint. Engrs. Coy.	Comd. (Engr. Offr.) H.Q. W. Comd.
James J. Seehan	Lt. Col.	Detachment M.O. 3 Hosp. Coy.	Comd. M.O. H.Q. E. Comd.
Fergus N. O'Connell	Lt. Col.	O.C. 21 Inf. Bn. (F.C.A.)	O.C. & A.P.M. H.Q. Depot M.P. Corps
Michael R. Whyte	Lt. Col.	O.C. Sqn. Comd. 11 Motor Sqn. (F.C.A.)	H.Q. Curragh Comd.
Francis Russell	Comdt.	Gen. List Air Corps	Flt. Comd. (Comdt.) A. Flt. Ftr. Sqrn., Flying Wing, Air Corps
Martin J. Egan	Comdt.	Navigation Offr. H.Q. Air Corps	
Thomas A. G. Hodson	Comdt.	S.O. (Capt.) Trg. Sec. CSs Br. A.H.Q. Staff	Coy. Comd. 29 Inf. Bn.
Laurence N. Donagh	Comdt.	Stores Offr. 4 Maint. Engr. Coy.	Stores Offr. (Comdt.) Group 3, Depot Ord. Corps
Eamon L. Quinlan	Comdt.	S.O. (Capt.) H.Q. 4 Bde.	Coy. Comd. 6 Inf. Bn.
Desmond A. O'Donnell	Comdt.	Pl. Comd., 1 Grn. M.P. Coy.	2 i/c (Comdt.) H.Q. 1 Grn. M.P. Coy.
Michael E. Lucey	Comdt.	P.S.O./A.G. (Capt.) A.G.s Br. A.H.Q. Staff	Coy. Comd., 5 Inf. Bn.
Michael O. O'Gorman	Comdt.	Pl. Comd. 30 Inf. Bn.	OIC (Comdt.) Civilian Per. D. Engrs. Q.M.G.s Br. A.H.Q. Staff
William P. Hanlon	Comdt.	Tpt. Offr. (Capt.) Air Corps, Baldonnel	O.C. & Bde. S & T Offr. 6 Fd. S & T Coy.
Peter J. Sreenan	Comdt.	Instr. (Capt.) Inf. Sch. Instr. Staff Mil. Col.	Coy Comd. 5 Inf. Bn.

NCOs PROMOTIONS – JUNE

NAME	TO	FROM	TO
Brennan, J.	R.S.M.	M.P.C.	Mil. Det. Bks., M.P.C.
Wallace, W.	C.Q.M.S.	6 Inf. Bn.	Retains
Newman, P.	C.Q.M.S.	6 F.A.R.	Retains
Gavin, P.	C.Q.M.S.	2 Garr. Coy. S & T	B.W.S. Clancy Bks.,
Sheehan, T.	C.Q.M.S.	Depot Sigs.	Obs. Corps
Raynor, D.	C.Q.M.S.	2 Maint. C.O.E.	Clancy Bks., Coy.

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Department of Military Studies,
Oxford Road,
Manchester M13 9PL.

The Editor,

The Editor,
Irish Defence Journal,
Dublin.

Dear Sir,
I am making a study of Irish armies of the Seventeenth Century for a thesis for an M.A. at the University of Manchester. I wonder if you could put me in touch with anyone else working in a similar field?

My particular interest is in the armies which fought in the Tyrone Rebellion, the War of the Catholic Confederation and the Jacobite War of 1688—92. I am interested in the structure of the armies themselves, their recruitment, supply and tactical methods, for example, and in any large strategic factors influencing their operation, such as the course of the river Shannon, rather than in individual campaigns and battles. However, insofar as local studies of individual operations throw light on general tactical, strategic and logistical problems I am interested in them as well.

Yours faithfully,
Peter Lucas.

OBITUARY

COMPANY-SERGT. P. J. SMITH

ON Tuesday, 12th June, 1979, Paddy Smith was interred in Glasnevin cemetery, Dublin, after 10 o'clock Mass in the Church of Our Lady of the Wayside, Bluebell, Dublin. *Requiescat in Pace.* Dublin born, Paddy was an excellent technician, a good administrator and wise counsellor. He had a long association with aircraft and played his part in helping to create Irish aviation history.

Paddy Smith entered the infant Irish Air Service, (Air Corps) Baldonnel Aerodrome, Co. Dublin, on 25th November, 1922, to train as an aircraft technician under the first apprentice scheme. In the early 1930's he was one of a few who were sent on technical work courses to A.V. Roe's and Vickers in England, where he learned many things about metal airframes, this being the transitionary period from the wooden to metal aircraft. During the difficult years of the Emergency he supervised the salvage of the many aircraft that crash-landed in this country.

He served with the Air Corps until 1946, when he retired with the rank of Company-Sergt., (Flight-Sergt.) to become employed with Aer Lingus Teo. Dublin Airport, from where he retired in 1972 as a Superintendent in the Production Department. We who knew and served with him in military and civil aviation, mourn his passing and to his wife and son we extend our deepest sympathy. Ni bheidha a leitheid ann aris. I measg na Naomh go raiba se.

H. McC.

(From page 216)

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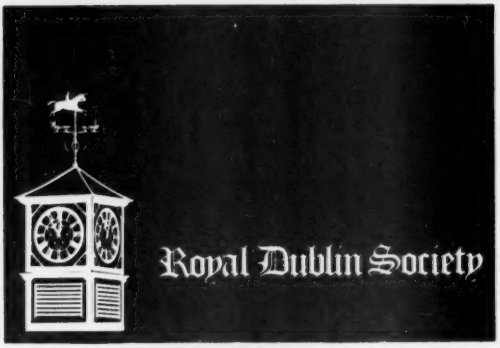

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BOOK REVIEWS

THE URCHIN: AN ARMENIAN'S ESCAPE. Kerop Bedoukian. John Murray. £4.95.

Armenia to most people suggests a vague area between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. It suggests Mont Ararat, exiles, massacres and a fierce commitment to religion, race and culture. To complicate matters it has moved northwards on the political map and is now a Soviet Socialist Republic. Of the old Armenia that suffered so much at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, Mount Ararat remains but the Armenians have fled to the Russian side of the border or gone into exile in the Middle East, the U.S.A. and Canada.

It was not until 1878 that a systematic plan for massacres and elimination was set in motion by the Turks, but it was only in 1915 that the final solution was put into operation. Turkey had gone into the Great War on the German side and the Western Powers were unable to intervene on behalf of the Armenians. Though the latter joined the Turkish Army, this did not save their families from being forced out of their homes and driven into the mountains and deserts to die of exposure and starvation. The male, adult population had already been arrested, taken away and killed. Of the three million Armenians on the Turkish side of the border, two million died and the balance went into exile.

The author of this book was one of the few survivors of the dreadful death-march that started in Asia Minor, whence they were brutally herded across the Euphrates enduring incredible hardships and suffering. He was eight years of age at the time and gives us a most poignant and exciting description of his battle for survival through the eyes of the child that he was. His boundless curiosity, his sense of adventure and his unfailing resourcefulness give the narrative a compelling intensity. His formidable mother is a modern Mother Courage whose ingenuity and energy never failed. When he reported to her that his little sister, Marian, had died on the march, she curtly replied: Leave the dead and take care of the living.

He scraped a grave three inches deep and put her into it and continued the march. "When I looked back she seemed to be sleeping; her expression was peaceful; I was sad because I had missed my chances of being kind to her before she died."

Against all the odds Kerop Bedoukian survived and with the remainder of his family finally reached Canada via Bulgaria and Liverpool. He is now a successful Montreal businessman. During the last 25 years he has enabled over 2,000 Armenians from Turkey, Greece and Egypt to emigrate and settle in Canada. His story and his book are a fitting monument to an ancient race and culture.

M. O'D.

MISS GOMEZ AND THE BRETHERN— William Trevor. PANTHER. £1.25.

Of the contemporary Irish writers William Trevor must be amongst the most satisfying; his novels and short stories are original, and his themes contemporary ones, thankfully far removed from the traditional cottage/slum milieu.

In this novel, first published in 1971, his setting is a London street under demolition — a scene also used by Iris Murdoch about that time. While both authors employ a complexity of characters to tell their tale, William Trevor's creations are not quite as complex as Miss Murdoch's, though nonetheless interesting for that. Miss Gomez, from Jamaica, zealot of The Brethern, a correspondence-post church, and a convert from sin, seeks to enlighten the few remaining inhabitants of Crow St. Her insight into their lives and motives leads to a succession of happenings which are hilarious, sad, and fruitful. This is a splendid novel, well worth reading and guaranteed to send you seeking Mr. Trevor's other works, if you have missed them.

C.

FIGHTING SPIRIT — PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS IN WAR— F. M. Richardson. Leo Cooper. £7.50.

If you are faced with an essay on Morale or a test-talk on Man Management you will find a great deal to interest you here. You will find your subject approached from an unusual military angle, that of the Medical Officer. While the approach may be unusual it is nonetheless military as the author, Major General F. M. Richardson, has impressive credentials. He served in the RAMC from 1927 to 1961 and was awarded the DSO in Eritea. In 1953 he was invited to lecture at the Staff College at Camberley and his contributions proved so noteworthy that he was persuaded by a number of distinguished College Commandants to collect them in book form.

General Richardson writes from a considerable experience of soldiers, their fears and frustrations, the psychological problems they face and he has some forthright views on how these problems should be solved. This is a stimulating, lively book and anyone interested in the subject will find the quotations from other works and the extensive bibliography of considerable value.

J. O'L.

HITLER— Manvell and Fraenkel. Panther. £1.25 plus VAT.

When I showed up reading this book I was made the butt of ribaldry by my so called 'friends'. It was only to be expected because Hitler, Nazis, Dracula, Mandingo and other purient subjects are classed as 'guardroom fare' by my military acquaintances.

More is the pity because Hitler was real and the authors, who have been in this field for a generation, represent him as a real person stripped of myth. It is a completely credible account of a man who was a dosser, a parasite with a chip on his shoulder and a hard neck. This chancer got his breaks due to the chaotic conditions of his time and acted out fantasies which other men would disown. Perhaps this is the fascination which draws adolescents to read of Hitler — in their gaucherie, reticence and feelings of powerlessness they need Hitler like they need racing car drivers, bullfighters, etc. Perhaps it was this same adolescent inadequacy which made Germany accept him and many non-Germans to applaud him.

It is very important for us to know of Hitler and how he got by for Hitlers keep cropping up and require putting down promptly before they get out of control. Manvell and Fraenkel's book is a clear, concise and comprehensive account of how that gutter-snipe rose to command most of Europe. The frigtening aspect of it all is how 'respectable' people everywhere assisted directly or indirectly; how they backed down, gave way, collaborated and generally betrayed the trust ordinary people put in them. This must never happen again.

The book contains some good photographs all related to the text. There are no swastikas on the cover. In short, the book is not a cheap sensationalist cashing in job — it is a sober and mature work which I commend to your attention.

Ribaldry, lest I offend it, has its place and my 'friends' will be pleased to hear that the Russians who found the body verify that claim so forcefully expressed in the marching song to the air of 'Colonel Bogie'.

T.C.L.

A SHAFT OF MOONLIGHT: Memories of a Varied Life— Philip Mason. Andre Deutsch. £6.50, plus V.A.T.

Philip Mason devoted twenty years of his life to India as a member of the Indian Civil Service, and his love of the country is evident in the books he writes. Some readers will already be familiar with his "A Matter of Honour, an account of the Indian Army, its' officers and men".

This book, while not of direct military interest, does have some, as the author was employed throughout the war in the Indian Department of Defence.

It is, nevertheless, a fascinating book about a fascinating life, not, as the author states in his introduction, strictly an autobiography, but rather a gallery of portraits and scenes.

At Oxford during the General Strike he helped produce the British Independent, a neutral newspaper for peace, while some of his contemporaries were strikebreadkers and special constables.

His life as an official was, I think, very much the same. A search for justice and truth, whether adjudicating in land disputes among villagers in the hills or helping generals to lay plans of campaign.

A large proportion of the book is devoted to his time in Garhwal, where he had "The Best Job in India", running his own district, almost independent of central control. The one road in the territory only ran for twenty miles. He spent most of his time there outdoors, mapping land holdings, work of importance, which he enjoyed doing.

During the war he accompanied Wavell to London to see Churchill, and then sailed with them to New York on the Queen Mary.

The India of the Raj finally ended with the War, and Philip Mason played his part in building the new India. He was a government member of the Central Assembly, speaking on Defence, and worked with kEnoch Powell in planning the new Indian Army.

For a while after that he was tutor to the two young princes of Hyderabad.

The book ends with his return to England, and an unsuccessful first attempt at farming.

This book is an all too brief account of the East that was and I heartily recommend it to anyone seeking a good read. It is never heavy, and is always interesting.

MEIER.

BOMBER. Len Deighton. Triad Panther in paper back. £1.25.
Len Deighton has an impressive list of books to his name now. He has specialized in spy stories and at least two of his novels "The Ipcress File" and "Funeral in Berlin" have been made into major movies.

As a consequence one looks immediately for the theatricals in any new work by him and there is no reason to feel disappointed with this one.

His research is prodigious, to say the least, and he has left no stone unturned and no manual un-studied in his search for authenticity. His technical descriptions of aircraft, in and out of action, are superb, and one can almost feel the giant bombers and radar loaded night fighters groan and shudder as they manoeuvre through the flak covered skies over Europe during WWII.

There are no heroes and no villians in the story, just men and women who try desperately hard to cope and stay alive.

If there is a fault, it is that too many characters flit in and out through the 480 pages of the story, and there is little chance to get to know any of them very well.

Some of his Germans are unconvincing and stagey, and several of his R.A.F. people are unbelievably light-weight. But these are minor quibbles. His narrative fairly gallops along and drags the reader along too at a ferocious pace. It never palls and finishes on a satisfactory note. After all it's a story about people and Mr. Deighton tells the reader how they all finished up.

Well worth reading. It will keep you interested until lights out.

V.F.

TRUPPENDIENST TASCHENBUCH. FOREIGN ARMIES — The Neutral and Uncommitted States of Europe.
This third edition of the pocket book of information on foreign armies is produced in Vienna and is a mine of basic information on the Neutral States of Europe as well as those lands uncommitted to any particular military grouping. This is the tenth of a series of information booklets which are a very handy reference source. Numbers 2 and 3 in the series will be familiar to UNTSO veterans as they were provided as easy identification references on OP duty. These deal with the Warsaw Pact and NATO Alliance respectively.

Particularly interesting in this book is the section on the Defence Forces of the Irish Republic. The sources quoted for the information provided are "Irish Defence Forces Handbook 1974", and "An Cosantoir". In general the quality and accuracy of the information provided reflects such impeccable sources but there are a few items which give pause for reflection. For example our "Reserve Recce Squadrons" are credited with possession of Ferrets Mk. I and II, and the battalion support companies have been deprived of their Anti-Tank Platoon. However, these are but minor quibbles and the overall impression is one of a succession of facts well presented and fully up-to-date, including such proposed purchases as the six Scorpion tanks and replacement guns for the 25 pounders.

One must judge the sections on the other states — Austria, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Albania, Spain, Sweden, Finland — in relation to the accuracy of the section on Ireland. This leads me to the conclusion that it is a very worthwile book to have as handy reference for one's own information or as the basis for an unscheduled talk on a C & S Course or Officer Training Day.

C.M.

IRISH NEWSPAPER HOWLERS— Patrick Myler. Mercier, Cork. 75p.

The worst newspaper howler I ever read caused the editor of a provincial weekly to dash madly about withdrawing all copies of the particular issue! (S.A.E. and five-pound note, please!)

Journalist Patrick Myler, however, has collected a fine assortment of 're-printable' howlers in his book — including some from the 'Banagher Beating' man, Mick Feeney.

Examples:

1. A householder in Drogheda was forced to leave his house through dangerous cracks in the wall.
   (I often felt I could leave my C.O.'s office that way!)
2. Owing to the fuel crisis, officials were asked to take advantage of their typists between the hours of 12 and 2.
   (So that's why the orderly room staff work through lunch time!).

P. O'F.

DEFENSE & FOREIGN AFFAIRS HANDBOOK— Publisher and Editor-in-Chief — Gregory R. Copley.

Receipt of the 1976-77 copy makes one anticipate sight of the more up-to-date edition of this extensive and expensive publication. It carries details of "the defense, political, economic, demographic and industrial aspects of every country and major colony in the world". It cover 190 National units, to use the publisher's phrase, and goes a long way to justify his claim that it is unique in its panorama of information.

J. O'L.

THE ISLANDS OF IRELAND— Kenneth McNally. Batsford. £7.95.

Kenneth McNally works with Ulster Television, and he has produced both text and phtographs — including some in colour — for this welcome publication. The author admits that the islands are so numerous that 'they defy reckoning', but there are many more than the traditionally quoted number of 365, and nearly a hundred are still inhabited, 'though the number is reducing yearly'. From this galaxy of isles Mr. McNally has selected 33 to describe, and they are arranged by counties. In the *Introduction* he gives a general geographical and historical account of the islands, and he elsewhere describes how the visitor should go about visiting an island. Then, under the name of the selected island, the history, traditions and places of interest are outlined, with appropriate photos displayed.

This reader found the acounts of lesser known places of particular interest, Carrick-a-Rede, reached by a rope bridge; Lambey with its fine residence by Lutyens; Gorumna, where sturdy thatched houses are still lived in, and Caher where a wealth of early Christian relics are to be found. This is a book to inspire readers, to encourage them to set off on voyages of exploration to our remotest places where the past is still alive, though fast declining.

C.C.

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